

## **Should we transition to ConexED?**

### **Introduction**

Currently, Mathnasium of Tallahassee uses Groupworld as its primary telecommunication software. The proposed transition to ConexED would come with several changes to the way our instructors conduct their sessions. These are the main considerations.

### **Reservations**

- ConexED does not allow an instructor to “remain” in the room while working with other students. With Groupworld, instructors can leave their video on for the more difficult students. As this is lacking in ConexED, we may see a decrease in student productivity.
- Several important tools are missing, most notably the “insert symbols” tool and the “drag screen” tool. Both of these functions can be achieved in other ways, but it will be more time intensive and complicated for the instructors.
- Multiple documents can no longer be added to the breakout room. For students moving between packets or working on their homework, this is a notable restraint.
- Unlike Groupworld, ConexED locks screen activity during file upload. This wastes 30 seconds every time a packet is uploaded. Additionally, since multiple files cannot be added to the breakout room, if a student finishes a packet or needs to upload homework, both the instructor and student must wait on a locked screen with the file loads.

### **Potential Improvements**

- The “Time since last activity” feature may prove to be useful, as it helps with identifying students who are not engaging with their work. On the other hand, the instructors can usually determine when a student is not working by the lack of work on screen.
- ConexED loads the “share screen” feature in a separate viewer, which may lead to fewer technical issues for the students sharing their work

### **Definite Improvements**

- File permanence: opening a document returns you to the page it was on when last closed. This is big, as it cuts out a significant portion of time spent reading previous instructors’ notes to determine and reach the correct page. Additionally, ConexED preserves student and instructor writing on the page, providing a record of the student’s understanding while progressing through the packet.
- Since ConexED operates within a single meeting room, it is much easier to reassign students to instructors. Instead of altering the schedule and uploading new files to separate urls, instructors only have to send a message in Slack and rename a breakout room to be ready for a different student.
- The chat feature is greatly improved. Links sent through ConexED will reach the student, increasing the number of educational games or supplemental instructional material the instructor can use to engage with the student

### **Conclusion**

ConexED seems to be an improvement over Groupworld, especially for instruction. I hope my “Reservations” will become less pronounced as instructors become comfortable with the new software, and the “Potential Improvements” do turn out to be improvements. Overall, it seems like a good idea to move forward with ConexED as our telecommunication software.